



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL  
MATERIALS AGENCY

# FACT SHEET

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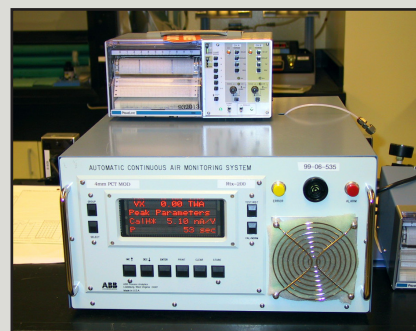
## Pine Bluff Chemical Activity

### Chemical Agent Monitoring

When Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) was operating, more than 230 chemical agent monitors were placed in and around the PBCDF and in its exhaust stacks, with anywhere between 26,000 to 43,000 samples taken daily. Near-real-time monitors continuously sniffed the air and gave a reading within minutes to check for chemical agents. Other monitors collected samples over a longer period of time to help confirm readings of the near-real-time monitors.

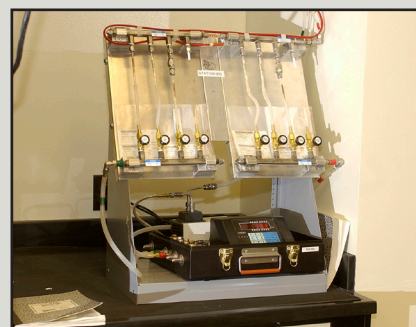
#### Automatic Continuous Air Monitoring System (ACAMS)

The Automatic Continuous Air Monitoring System was the primary monitor used in the Army's chemical weapons disposal program at Pine Bluff. Installed inside and around the footprint of the PBCDF, about 90 of these near-real-time monitors sampled the air every three to five minutes, 24 hours a day, with each air sample analyzed and the results visually displayed. Using a process called gas chromatography, these monitors can detect extremely low levels of chemical agent. Any detection exceeding allowable levels triggered local and remote audible and visual alarms.



#### Depot Area Air Monitoring System (DAAMS)

About 140 Depot Area Air Monitoring System units continually sampled the air for chemical agent by drawing the air through special glass tubes and trapping any chemical agent in a special material. Sampling times vary from every few minutes to 12 hours. The tubes were collected and analyzed by the monitoring laboratory to confirm readings from the ACAMS monitors. DAAMS were also used to provide a historical record for areas not monitored by the near-real-time monitors.



#### Real Time Analytical Platform (RTAP)

The Real Time Analytical Platforms are fully functional mobile monitoring vehicles with equipment that samples and analyzes ambient air to detect the presence of nerve or mustard agents. The Arsenal used nine RTAPs, primarily in its chemical storage areas. They were capable of 24-hour operations and analyzed accurately for nerve or mustard agent, rapidly verifying and confirming the results on site in approximately one-half hour. PBCDF used one RTAP, equipped with two ACAMS, to support demilitarization operations.



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